

PRESIDENT McCORMICK DRAGS THE WITT MURDER INTO THE TRUST NEWSPAPERS

BY DON MAC GREGOR

The war of the trust newspapers over the state's attorneyship now has reached a stage which, in my opinion, would be farcical were not the interests of the people so vitally involved.

I am not sure, however, that the interests of the people may not be best served in the end by the ludicrous farce now being served up by the trust newspapers. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good, and it is possible that the good in the present nauseating wind may be to all the people.

Yesterday afternoon A. A. McCormick, president of the county board, tried to get that board to appropriate \$15,000 for the COOPER vote fraud grand jury. The board already had refused to appropriate money for the Kersten vote fraud grand jury.

McCormick failed by two votes to get the board to appropriate the \$15,000, and the entire question will come up again before the board next Monday, by which time there is no saying what the status of the various grand juries, special prosecutors and so on may be.

But the farcical thing about yesterday's proceedings was not in the stand taken by the county board, but in the method used by President McCormick to induce the board to appropriate the \$15,000.

In this connection, it must be remembered that McCormick was hurried into office with the kind assistance of The Tribune and The News, and that he is quite as much a representative of these two newspapers as he is of the people whom alone he is technically supposed to represent.

McCormick read to the board a long typewritten statement, which began by stating that the present condition of affairs in regard to the state's attorneyship is a disgrace and a scandal, which unquestionably is true.

"It may be," he said, "that Mr. Hoyne is legally elected, but there must be an investigation to determine who stole the 9,000 votes cast for William Cunnea and counted for Hoyne. There is reason to believe there were frauds in connection with the other offices, too."

All this almost any ordinary citi-

zen will be ready to grant and to applaud. But now comes the part that to me is really funny.

"Behind the whole situation looms the sinister figure of Andrew M. Lawrence of Hearst's Examiner. A crime alleged to have been committed by ex-convicts in his employ started the revolt against his candidate, Mr. Hoyne.

"Some time previous to the last election a union street car conductor named Frank Witt was murdered by thugs said to have been employed by Lawrence. All efforts to bring them to trial proved unsuccessful, with the result that the punishment of these criminals became a serious factor in the state's attorney's election. Thousands of votes were cast for other candidates in the belief that Mr. Hoyne was Mr. Lawrence's personal candidate and would do his bidding if elected and that justice would be thwarted.

"When murder is committed the question whether a man is a union or non-union man should never be allowed to enter. The culprit should be speedily tried and punished if found guilty."

Now can you beat that? A man who represents two of the trust newspapers accusing another trust newspaper of hiring ex-convicts and protecting them when they committed murder? And, what is more, The Record-Herald and The Tribune this morning "playing up" the part about the murder of Witt by Hearst